



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 2007

**MAYOR JERRY SANDERS
MEDIA ADVISORY**

**THREE FAMILIES ABLE TO REMOVE MAJORITY OF BELONGINGS,
ADDITIONAL MOVES SCHEDULED THIS WEEK**

Tuesday, 2:30 p.m.

WORKING WITH AFFECTED HOMEOWNERS TO REMOVE BELONGINGS

- Three families have been able to move the majority of their belongings out of the affected homes (two homes with red-tags and one home with yellow-tag status).
- One family whose home was red-tagged was unable to remove their furniture and large items on Monday because the moving company determined it unsafe to move large items across the collapsed portion of Soledad Mountain Road directly in front of the home. The City, with a geotechnical expert overseeing the activity, allowed the family to remove additional smaller items. City staff had made multiple entries into the home to remove personal items last week. Future plans are in the works to further assist this family and they are in close contact with City recovery staff.
- Another family, who owns a home with red-tagged status on Soledad Mountain Road, is scheduled to make a similar attempt on Wednesday to see if they are able to safely remove larger items.
- Arrangements are in place with all but one of the owners of red-tagged homes, and the moving schedule is in place for this week. One home with red-tagged status has been determined to be too unsafe to enter and remove belongings.
- City recovery staff is also working closely with the owners of homes with yellow-tagged status to retrieve their belongings if they wish to do so.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUES

- One private geotechnical consultant brought in a larger drill rig today in an effort to bore through rock formations that are very hard to drill through. Drilling is in process now, attempting to reach 100 feet, on Soledad Mountain Road at the west edge of the collapsed roadway on the north side of the public right-of-way.
- Geotechnical experts hired by the homeowners, as well as City-hired experts, are logging data inside a 33-foot deep hole dug on private property at the top of the slide above Soledad Mountain Road on the west side of the right-of-way. The geologists look for slide planes and gather data for analysis in determining the cause of the slide.
- Drilling and sampling on the private property of the red-tagged homes on Soledad Mountain Road and in the public right of way continue today.
- Geotechnical consultants have drilled holes ranging in depth from 33 to 107 feet at the top end of the slide area on Soledad Mountain Road and bottom end on Desert View alley, and installed inclinometers – instruments that measure soil movement. Multiple inclinometers are currently in use on the site and additional inclinometers are being installed today. Several piezometers have also been installed – these instruments test for groundwater.
- City staff and City-hired consultants have shared their geotechnical data with private geotechnical consultants this week.
- Data collection is continuing to move forward at full-speed this week.
- Private geotechnical consultants continue to map the slide area as part of the analysis.
- The information collected in these surveys is being studied by City geotechnical consultants for analysis. The data will be used to determine the most cost-effective methods for repairing damaged roadways and stabilizing the slide area for permanent repairs. Additionally, this information will be useful in determining the cause of the landslide.

STATUS OF AFFECTED HOMES

- **“Red-tagged”** – Six (6) homes remain with red tag status. The City is working with these homeowners to retrieve their belongings from the homes, which remain unsafe for occupancy.
- **“Yellow-tagged”** – Seven (7) homes remain with yellow-tag status.
- **“Green-tagged”** – Six (6) homes now have “green tag” status because they have no street access. These homes are on the Desert View Drive alley and access to them is blocked by the landslide. These residents are able to reoccupy their homes. The residents who choose to do so are making arrangements for alternate access.
- Where possible, utilities are being restored to the yellow-tagged homes.
- The County Assessor visited the site Thursday to view the damaged homes.

SECURING THE AREA

- Police and security continue to be onsite 24 hours a day controlling access to the site and surrounding area.
- City contractors have installed a 6-foot-high chain link perimeter security fence around the red- and yellow-tagged homes.

INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

- Trash collection service is being provided for residents in the area using smaller collection vehicles.
- The City's Environmental Services Department has also made arrangements with the residents along Desert View Alley without street access. These residents will continue to receive trash, recycling and greenery recycling services via manual pickup.
- Postal service has been restored for those occupying their homes on the affected stretch of Soledad Mountain Road. Arrangements have been made for the homeowners who remain unable to receive mail at home.
- Affected residents are in close contact with City officials. Information is available on the City's web page at www.sandiego.gov.